

V. REMARKS

In the final Office Action dated December 18, 2008, claims 1, 4, 6, 17 and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention. The claims are canceled and, as a result, the rejection is now moot. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

In the final Office Action dated December 18, 2008, claims 1-4 and 26-28 are rejected under 35 USC 103 (a) as being unpatentable over in view of Kammochi et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0012899) in view of Sato et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,136,092), Ohama (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0192409) and Nakajima et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,306,473). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

The claims are canceled and, as a result, the rejection as applied thereto is now moot. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

It is respectfully submitted that newly-added claims 29-43 include features not shown in the applied art.

It is respectfully submitted that the pending claims are believed to be in condition for allowance over the prior art of record. Therefore, this Amendment is believed to be a complete response to the outstanding Office Action. Further, Applicants assert that there are also reasons other than those set forth above why the pending claims are patentable. Applicants hereby reserve the right to set forth further arguments and remarks supporting the patentability of their claims, including the separate patentability of the dependent claims not explicitly addressed herein, in future papers.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration of the application and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe anything

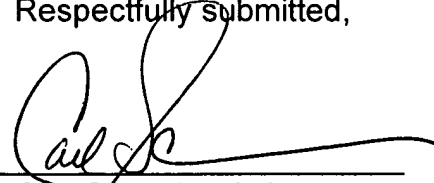
further is desirable in order to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representative at the telephone number listed below.

Should additional fees be necessary in connection with the filing of this paper or if a Petition for Extension of Time is required for timely acceptance of the same, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 18-0013 for any such fees and Applicant(s) hereby petition for such extension of time.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: June 3, 2009

By:


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Enclosure(s): Amendment Transmittal
 Petition for Extension of Time (three months)

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